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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,023	01/10/2002	Toshihiro Morita	450101-02844	4611

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,023

Applicant(s)

MORITA ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y. Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43 and 48-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43 and 48-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 25, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Status

Claims 41-43, 48-68 are pending for examination, claims 41, 48, 53, 55, 60, 62, 67-68 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 41-43 and 48-68, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,412,012 issued to Bieganski et al. (hereinafter

referred as '012 Bieganski) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,959,288 issued to Medina et al. (hereinafter referred as '288 Medina).

Claims 41, 48, 53, 55, 60, 62 and 67-68:

Bieganski discloses an information processing system as claimed [e.g., Fig. 1] comprising:

- a recording unit for recording usage history data and the related data recorded in the recording means based on at least two filtering data set [e.g., the CPU (102, Fig. 1) can coupled to the memory system (104, Fig. 1) and the secondary storage(108 of Fig. 1) to log history data indicative of usage history of the group of contents. Furthermore, the data being stored in the History Set (203, Fig. 2) and the customer's behavior data recorded at a shopping set as specified at col. 8, lines 7-8, and the Purchased Items associated to a particular user's Transaction, and the item compatibility rule data sets at (900, Fig. 9), and the recommendation sets generated by the engine (600, Fig. 14; col. 14, lines 31-33)];
- a computing unit configured to compute a weight related to a number of checkout per each of the contents based on both the history data and one of the at least two filtering data set [e.g., the compatibility modifier (200, Fig. 2) can accept a stored number of

checkout (or the number of times each item was purchased, Fig. 9) per each of the contents from the history data on a filtering rule specified by a marketer or customer or the processing of recommendation engine itself (col. 9, lines 63-49) to compute a weight related to the number of checkout (the steps 752-756, Fig. 7A)], the computing unit receiving input from a user to edit the at least two filtering data sets [e.g., col. 6, lines 43-46, Fig.(s) 3-5 and associated texts];

- a selecting unit for selecting a content from a group of contents based on weight computed by the computing means [e.g., the user interface adapter coupled to the Input Device (114, 118, Fig. 1) can be used to select the modified recommendation set based on weight computed by the compatibility modifier (Fig. 5; Fig. 6; col. 13, line 21 - col. 14, line 14; col. 14, line 31-col. 15, line 2)];
- a displaying unit for display a list of at least titles in the information related to the contents selected by the selecting means [e.g., the Display Adapter (112, Fig. 1) coupled to the Display Device (116, Fig. 1) can display a list of recommended books selected by the book reviewer (col. 7, lines 49-54)].

'012 Bieganski did not directly explain that the selection unit configured to create at least two filtering packages based on the at least two filtering data sets, wherein each of the at least two filtering packages includes information identifying the content

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selected, and the information identify the content is capable of being shared by at least two filtering packages so as to allow the content to belong to both the at least two filtering package at any given time.

However, '288 Medina discloses the claimed features [e.g., col. 11, lines 7-30, col. 68, lines 13-67, the content processing tool of Fig.(s) 8, 12-13 and associated texts]

'012 Bieganski and '288 Medina are in the same endeavor to facilitate the sharing of group of content data via open network user interface, therefore, with the teachings of Bieganski and Medina in front of him/her, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bieganski's system with the technique taught by Medina to provide the selection unit as claimed that is configured to create at least two filtering packages based on the at least two filtering data sets, wherein each of the at least two filtering packages includes information identifying the content selected, and the information identify the content is capable of being shared by at least two filtering packages so as to allow the content to belong to both the at least two filtering package at any given time. Because by doing so, as suggested by Medina the combined system will provides a standard for creating digital players on end-user device that facilitates an end user to distribute, share and manage of a local library of digital contents no other than what was purchased [e.g., col. 5, lines 39-53, Fig.(s) 8, 12-13 and associated texts].

As to claims 42, 49, 51-52, 54, 56, 58-59, 61, 63, and 65-66:

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Except all the features recited in claims 41, 48, 53, 55, 60, and 62, the combined system of Bieganski and Medina further discloses that the system comprising means to computes per each of the contents as weight for a period for which the content has been checked out or for the genre of the content or for playing time of the content [e.g., '288 Medina: col. 13, lines 1-9; col. 93, line15].

As to claims 43, 50, 57 and 64:

Except all the features recited in claims 41, 48, 53, 55, 60, and 62, the combined system of Bieganski and Medina further discloses that the system comprising means for adding new filtering data [e.g., '288 Medina: col. 11, lines 19-22].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments based on newly amended features with respect to claims 41-43 and 48-68 filed on September 25, 2006 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as discussed above. Furthermore, In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., multiple filtering packages are titled "Ten Best Pops" and "Ten Best Rock and Rolls" respectively and the songs in one of these packages share the same song ID) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,804,666) which discloses an information processor to process on-line digital content shopping packages via program storage medium.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Susan Chen

December 8, 2006